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should be a graduated compulsory educational system; in addition to the common branches, physical geography, political economy, ethics, natural and moral theology, and technical instruction should be given. Pardoning power should be rare; release should occur only when there is reasonable security against further crime. There are about 46,000 penitentiary prisoners in the United States, and from a quarter to half a million of ex-convicts abroad in the community, which is the cause of most of the current crimes.

*De la suggestion hypnotique chez les criminels*, par le DR. EM. LAURENT.  
Revue de l'Hypnotisme, 1er Août, 1889.

The writer takes up in detail a hysterical individual accused of complicity in theft, and shows how that hypnotization is negative in results as to gaining a confession from the accused. The following conversation took place while the accused was in the hypnotic state:

Laurent. You are accused of complicity in theft. Patient. I am innocent. L. You knew however that the horse and carriage had been stolen? P. No, no. I didn't know anything about it. L. You knew it. P. I swear to you, I did not. L. I tell you, you did know it. P. No (already more softly). L. I assure you that you knew it, you knew it. P. Yes, I knew it. L. Are you sure you knew it? P. I knew it. L. (again). You did not know that the carriage had been stolen? P. Yes, I knew it. (Thus it is evident, that the will of the patient has been conquered by the will of the hypnotizer.) Dr. Laurent continues: You did not know that the carriage had been stolen. P. Yes, I knew it. L. No, I tell you, you did not know anything about it. P. No, I did not know anything about it. At this moment we do not know whether the patient knows it, or not. Dr. Laurent says that the present state of our knowledge does not permit us to know whether the person hypnotized obeys his conscience or his will, which holds him under its dependence. We may add that little children on the witness stand can be made through the overbearing manner of the examiner to confess things about themselves or others that have been solely suggested at the time.

Dr. Laurent has an article in the same review for November 1st, 1889, considering the influence of suggestive action over hysterical prisoners. A hysterical person is often wholly at the mercy of his surroundings. At one time he loves to engage in prayer, at another to go on a debauch. It is evident that such a person coming out of prison will be more dangerous than ever. The doctor cites cases from his own experience, where the prisoners have made their hysterical comrade believe all sorts of absurdities about himself. He terms this a sort of suggestion (*à froid*), a hypnotism in the waking state; without doubt the suggestive action is less than in sleep, still it has its forces. He gives also an illustration of self-hypnotization in the case of a hysterical prisoner, who within a few days after his entrance into prison learns the customs, language and tastes of the place, and believes himself to be one of the greatest of criminals; he can be made to injure other prisoners. The practical conclusion of the article is, that all hysterical prisoners should be isolated, and placed under the charge of a physician, on account of the pernicious moral influence the prisoners have over them.

*Should Inebriates be Punished by Death for Crime?* By T. D. CROTHERS, M. D., Superintendent of Walnut Lodge, of Hartford, Conn.

Although this is only a leaflet of eight pages, it contains many facts and practical ideas. Criminals are found who are not deceitful, but desperately wicked. The inebriate is defective and diseased—the death penalty for inebriates is opposed to all teachings of science and experience. Ten per cent. of the estimated half million inebriates in the United

States are yearly convicted of crime; two per cent. commit capital crime, and one per cent. of this number, or about one hundred persons, are executed every year. Inebriacy is not a voluntary condition within the control of the person. In one thousand cases confined on Blackwell's Island, nine hundred and thirty-five had been returned for the same offence from one to twenty-eight times. The inebriate murderers are subject to delusions, morbid impulses, epileptic explosions, sometimes alcoholic somnambulism; the death penalty has no horrors for them; the first sentence causes others. Inebriate murderers should have a private trial, should be confined for the rest of their life in a military work-house hospital.

*Archives de l'Anthropologie Criminelle. Tome troisième. Paris, 1888. Chronique anglaise et anglo-américaine. Par H. COUTAGNE. pp. 702.*

The writer refers in brief to the innovation of electricity in capital punishment. There are two objections to execution of the criminal by electricity: First from the frequent inconstance of electric currents. In England, in 1865 it was tried at the slaughter houses, and in spite of the energy of means employed they succeeded sometimes, but were compelled to resort to more certain methods. The second objection is more serious and will hold even if electricity in the hands of the executioner is made certain; it is, that the punishment by death can produce its preventative effect against crime only by virtue of a brutal method, which does not permit the least doubt as to its reality. Electricity will not produce this preventative effect, and will permit a suspicion of simulation. The writer's second objection is well taken. It may be said, however, that the cruel method, should it prevent a few murders, hardens at the same time the finer sentiments of the great mass of the people; on this basis the taking of life at all has an evil effect; also why should it be taken, if the method of doing it defeats the very end for which it is done? But a thorough statistical investigation rather than arguments may point towards a solution.

*De la mort par l'électricité. D'ARSONAL. Archives de l'anthropologie criminelle. 1887.*

Arsonal's experiments show that electricity can kill in two ways: (1.) By direct action of the discharge which causes instantaneous and irremediable death by the destruction of the tissues themselves. When a nervous, vascular or muscular tissue is excited by a discharge sufficiently intense to be compared to a thunderbolt, the tissue is completely disorganized, and loses forever its physiological properties. But (2), Death can take place by reflex action in exciting the bulbular centers, as a mechanical irritation would do it. This germ of excitation is accompanied by all the phenomena of action at a distance, studied by Brown-Sequard under the names of inhibition and "*dynamogénie*." This is why the lesions are not regular, and can present an infinite variety, according to the variable point of the nervous centers excited. Death, artificially caused, is almost always due to an arrest of respiration, which being prolonged causes death definitely by asphyxia. The practical conclusion of the author is, that in the great majority of cases life can be restored on immediately afterwards applying artificial respiration.

#### IV.—EXPERIMENTAL.

*Psychophysiologische Protistenstudien. Experimentelle Untersuchungen von DR. MAX VERWORN. Jena, 1889. pp. 217.*

After an affectionate introductory note to his former teachers, Hæckel